

# Border Eagle

Vol. 53, No. 1

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

Jan. 7, 2005

## Airmen FOCUS on their next mission

By Staff Sgt. Kristin Mack  
Special to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

As world-wide threats continue, and deployment rotations increase, there is a rising demand for Airmen to possess tools necessary to successfully battle the challenges awaiting them at their next remote location.

Besides packing their bags with uniforms, toiletries and gear when preparing for a lengthy assignment, deployers need to ensure their deployment toolkit is packed as well. The complete toolkit addresses all aspects of an airman's deployment: physical, spiritual, emotional, and social.

On Dec. 15, 2004, the next cycle of Laughlin's Aerospace Expeditionary Force deployers converged on Building 820 for the newly formed Fully Operational Combat Use Skills course, which is designed to train and prepare Airmen for their impending AEF tours.

FOCUS consists of three days of intensive classroom and field training, said Capt. Darrell O. Burghard, 47th Logistics Readiness Division director. It covers areas such as family readiness, self aid and buddy care, combat skills, law of armed conflict, convoy familiarization and biological and chemical warfare.

"This is how training will be completed from here on out. This (class) not only tackles the members' annual train-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

### Things that creep in the night...

**Staff Sgt. David Myers, 47th Operations Support Squadron, stands guard against an attack scenario during the Fully Operational Combat Use Skills course conducted here Dec. 15-16. The course is the first of its kind within Air Education and Training Command that provides just-in-time training for members deploying within their aerospace expeditionary force schedule.**

ing requirements, but is also designed to ensure Laughlin deployers have been provided every possible tool to have a good deployment and return safely," said Captain Burghard.

On the last day of class, the students put all of the training to use during a simulated, real-world field

training exercise. They perform team movements, security crossings, properly address unexploded ordnance, engage in prisoner-of-war challenges, and don their gas masks to withstand tear gas.

See 'Training,' page 4

## Military W-2s: easier to determine tax-credit eligibility

ARLINGTON, Va. — The 2004 W-2 tax forms for servicemembers will now report pay earned while serving in a combat zone tax exclusion area. This information helps them determine their eligibility for the earned income tax credit and child tax credit.

The combat pay information will be listed separately in Block 14 of the W-2 and will not be included with taxable wage information in Block 1.

Tax credit qualifications are based on gross income, which includes pay

earned while in a combat zone. The addition of this information on 2004 W-2s will aid in determining whether a servicemember meets the Internal Revenue Service requirements for tax credit and which method of computing taxes is most advantageous to each situation.

The 2004 W-2s will be available mid- to late-January. Visit myPay online at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx> to check availability.

For more information on these or

other tax issues, people can contact their unit tax adviser or finance office.

For details about W-2 access from myPay online and Laughlin's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, see the article and list of representatives on page 5.

Information is also available in the Armed Forces Tax Guide 2004 online at [www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf) and on the IRS Web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Courtesy Air Force Print News

### Newslines

#### MLK luncheon set

The Black Heritage Committee has set a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. remembrance luncheon for 11:30 a.m. Jan. 14 at Club XL. The speaker will be Anthony McKinney.

For details, call Maj. Sharon Walker at 298-6464 or Master Sgt. Richard Crivens at 298-5991.

#### Med group town hall set

The 47th Medical Group will host a town hall meeting from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Health and Wellness Center, in the base fitness center.

Base members can meet the physicians and staff, ask questions, and learn more about new programs.

For details, call 298-6312.

#### New UOD policy outlined

The 47th Flying Training Wing commander has issued a new uniform-of-the-day policy for military members.

Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays have been designated utility/battle dress uniform or flight suit days. Any authorized combination of blues is worn on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

View the revised Laughlin uniform supplement at <https://home.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/support/comm/im/supplements/36-2903.pdf>.

#### Deployment stats

Deployed: 62  
Returning in 30 days: 42  
Deploying in 30 days: 2

#### Mission status

(As of Wednesday)

Days behind or ahead:

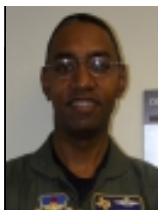
T-1, 1.22 T-38, 4.07  
T-38C, - 0.42 T-6, -7.5

Mission capable rate

(As of the end of 2004)

T-38C, 94.4% T-1, 87.3%  
T-38A, 67.8% T-6, 92.2%

## Team XL has favored safety attitude



### Commander's Corner

By Lt. Col. Fred Armstrong  
47th Flying Training Wing  
chief of safety

We get lots of safety briefings and talk about techniques to maintain a safe work environment, but safety is about watching out for each other and good ol' common-sense.

At home, in the workplace, on the road, it doesn't matter; we practice good safety mindset each and every day. Whether we realize it or not, we do things to keep ourselves from getting hurt almost subconsciously. This happens because we, as an organization, place that special emphasis on taking care of our most precious resource, people.

Since the beginning of the summer, AETC has lost only one member. To bring it closer to home, here at Laughlin, we've gone over a year since losing a member of the team.

This is a testament to every-

one because we all look out for each other everyday. Commanders, supervisors and co-workers acting both consciously and unconsciously to take care of one another allow us to make the mission happen safely.

This attitude extends to our homes and communities because we take this safety mindset home.

How many times have you stopped working on a project because "something wasn't quite right?" How many of you buckle up and make sure your passengers buckle up when you get in the car for a ride to the store, work or Sunday afternoon sightseeing?

This is the safety attitude we all possess inside.

Team XL has taken the safety attitude to heart better than any place I've seen to date, but it just doesn't happen... it takes work.

We can't rest on our laurels, pat ourselves on the back or congratulate ourselves on a great record so far. We have to keep moving forward and use past experience to keep this record intact. That will continue to take a team effort.

As we look ahead to the near

future, I see even greater opportunities to "XL." Soon, we'll be in the middle of an ORI that will test our mettle. We'll have folks running through deployment lines, setting up and running a tent-city and reacting to mock enemy attacks.

Following the ORI, we'll be showcasing this great base through our Air Amistad '05 Air Show. As Ambassadors in Blue, we'll have lots of folks on base looking at static displays and aerial demonstrations.

The next few months are going to be hectic, to say the least. Through it all, we need to keep up the vigilance on the safety front to keep our people out of harm's way. If you see something bad developing don't hesitate to call "Knock-it-off", stop the action and, together, figure out a better way to finish the task safely.

Protecting each other from harm is the ultimate goal and a better passing grade than we could ever receive. In the words of one of my Instructor Pilots, "Safety is no Accident, it's an Attitude."

Team XL, you have the Attitude!

## Suicide leaves impression on loved ones

By 2nd Lt. Shannon Collins  
52nd Fighter Wing public affairs

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany - As I hear songs like "Butterfly Kisses" and "Daddy's Hands," and as I watch a movie like "Father of the Bride," the words "self-inflicted gunshot wound" echo in my mind.

I will never have that special relationship between a father and a daughter. I won't have anyone to walk me down the aisle or to celebrate Father's Day with. And, it isn't because of a tragic automobile accident or a physical disease; it's because of suicide.

In fiscal 2004, the Air Force had 57 suicides. Fifty percent of those cases involved Airmen between the ages of 17 and 24. My father was 30 when he did it -

the age I am now.

His death certificate reads "massive laceration of brain" and "shotgun wound of the face." He shot himself Dec. 12, 1979, and lived until Dec. 29, 1979. He was buried New Year's Eve. Not only did he punish his family members with his loss, but with the sight of him bloody and broken in the hospital for 17 days.

Suicide ranks third as a cause of death among young Americans age 15-24, behind accidents and homicides, according to the American Association of Suicidology. It is the 11th leading cause of death overall.

Capt. Ruth Roa-Navarette, from the Spangdahlem Air Base life skills clinic, said though most Air Force suicides occurred between July and September this

year, people should always be extra mindful to reach out to those who may be at risk or alone.

The death certificate also reads "acute ethanolism," which means he was very intoxicated at the time.

In 2004, alcohol abuse accounted for about 19 percent of suicides across the Air Force.

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence states that "alcoholism is a primary, chronic disease with genetic, psychosocial and environmental factors influencing its development and manifestations. The disease is often progressive and fatal. It is characterized by continuous or periodic impaired

See 'Suicide,' page 3

### Border Eagle

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The Border Eagle is published every Friday, except the first week in January and the last week in December, by the Del Rio News-Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 47th Flying Training Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

#### Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to: [olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil) or [sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil).

#### Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.



Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters  
47th Flying Training  
Wing commander



Call 298-5351 or email  
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By

including your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also useful if more information is needed to pursue your inquiry. We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Please keep e-mails brief.

If your question relates to the gen-

eral interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299

Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

Fitness options

**Question:** I am a dependent spouse and am not sure what the "normal channels" are, though I have talked briefly to the staff and manager at the gym and have filled out a comment card.

I was unable to attend aqua classes (a few weeks ago) because the old pool was closed and the new gym wasn't open. I attended a couple of Pilates classes but was unable to get a significant workout due to injury. (Then, I tried to attend aqua classes the following week), both ...times they were cancelled. Disappointing and frustrating, but to be expected as the transition kinks are worked out.

Then I found out that aqua classes are basically a non-option for me now because there is nowhere for my children to be while I attend class: not in the water, not near the water, not in the same room and not in the building. You see, aqua is not offered in the only room where they are allowed to be, as long as I am with them. Even if I was physically able to participate in other classes, which I cannot or I will likely re-injure

myself, I couldn't because my children can't go with me there either.

Furthermore, there is no babysitting offered on site (I would be willing to pay for it) and the classes are not offered at a time when my husband can take over parenting!

My children are 6 years old and are strong swimmers. They have been taking lessons and swimming at this base since they were 15 months old. I am confident in my children's abilities in the water. That is why aqua was the perfect option for me at Friendship pool. My kids could be with me and I could look after them. I could exercise and they could practice what they had learned in their lessons.

I have been attending aqua classes since April 2004.

(Additionally), I can play soccer with my kids now. I have stopped going to a chiropractor for lower back pain (strengthening abdominal and back muscles can do wonders.)

Family bike rides are an option now. I have regained a fair measure of flexibility. I can take stairs and not be a sweaty, winded mess when I get to the top. I am (God willing) sidestepping a family history of diabetes so that I will be around and healthy for many years to come.

I am stronger physically, emotionally and spiritually and I like how I feel!

Thank you for rectification of this oversight and prompt attention to this matter.

**Response:** Thank you for sharing your concern and providing us an opportunity to help you and others in similar situations with their fitness needs.

You will be happy to know your call has made a difference. We will soon offer an afternoon/evening water aerobics class for those who have school-age children. We will post this class to our new schedule as soon as we can modify our contract; we expect to be in full swing this month! The class schedule may allow you to obtain drop-in care for your children at the youth center's school-age program between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m.

In addition to care provided at the youth center, the youth programs office maintains a certified babysitter referral listing. These sitters have passed the eight hour certification course and are an excellent resource for care. Further, hourly drop-in care is available for children six weeks to 5 years of age in the Child Development Center. This service

is subject to first-come first-serve drop-off availability and daily priority is given to regular enrollees. The center will take the patron's name and number if there are no slots available and call if the situation changes up to the day in question.

In the meantime, the newly opened XL Fitness Center offers a variety of low- and high-impact aerobics classes that may accommodate your needs. Please stop by the Fitness Center and we'll be happy to show you our facility and equipment, and provide you a copy of the latest class schedules.

Also, the Health and Wellness Center (HAWC) inside the Fitness Center can support you in overall healthy lifestyle pursuits with diet, nutrition and exercise information. The health and wellness programs are designed to help change and maintain behavior for healthier lifestyles. Among the classes offered by the HAWC are fitness assessment, nutrition and lifestyles. These classes are offered monthly and by appointment. For details, please call 298-6464.

Lastly, we commend you on your dedication and progress towards a fit and healthy lifestyle.

*"Through trust and teamwork, train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America's wars."*

— 47th Flying  
Training Wing  
mission statement

Suicide, from page 2

control over drinking, preoccupation with the drug alcohol, use of alcohol despite adverse consequences, and distortions in thinking, most notably denial."

The jury is out on why my father did what he did. We will always wonder. I will have to live with what he did for the rest of my life.

No matter how overwhelming a situation can be - whether it is financial difficulties, receiving punishment in the military, or

personal life twists and turns, anyone who considers suicide as the only way out should think of his or her parents, of the family and friends who may be far away but who care for him or her. Chaplains, life skills representatives, co-workers and supervisors are also there to listen.

With a little research, you can find a number of Web sites that provide information on suicide, suicide statistics or support groups for survivors of suicide. For immediate help, call a base chaplain or the life skills center.

Most importantly, get help.

(Editor's Note: The Laughlin Life Skills Clinic, 298-6422, offers programs including family advocacy, alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment and more.

The on-call chaplain can be reached at 298-5111 during duty hours or paged by calling 298-5167 during non-duty hours. The Family Support Center, 298-5620, offers programs to help families when experiencing a deployment, moving to the area or a variety of other situations.)



Photo by Staff. Sgt. Kristin Mack

## Welcome home troops...

**Col. Tod Wolters, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, gives a warm welcome Thursday to nine firefighters from the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron. They arrived home Tuesday after a four-month deployment to Northeast Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The firemen will enjoy two weeks of rest and recuperation following their inprocessing.**

# AF assigns career fields, counselors for all civilian employees

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE**  
— Every Air Force civilian is now assigned to a specific career field, giving him or her a clear point of contact for career counseling.

This marks the first tangible effect of civilian career field management, said Air Force Personnel Center officials here.

Career field management is the civilian equivalent of the military's force development. Both initiatives are aimed at deliberately developing Air Force leaders.

Each civilian position has been assigned to a career field regardless of series, grade or pay plan, and a career field identification has been attached to each position, said Chrissy Ayers, standard core personnel document library manager.

Career counselor contact information and the matrix used to code each position can be viewed online at

[www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cp/](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cp/).

Positions that do not clearly meet the logic on the matrix will be forwarded to AFPC officials for a career field determination, she said.

"This is a change in how we manage and sustain the civilian force," Ms. Ayers said. "It's part of the ongoing process to bring the civilian and military personnel processes closer together."

For more information, employees can call toll-free (800) 616-3775 (press 2 and follow the prompts).

Overseas employees will first dial a direct access number for the country they are in, then (800) 997-2378.

Hearing-impaired employees can call TDD (800) 382-0893, or commercial (210) 565-2276 if located within the San Antonio area.

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

## Training, from page 1

The students are able to develop mask confidence, said Senior Airman Nick Jones, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron readiness journeyman and nuclear, biological and chemical warfare course instructor. They will have the opportunity to become familiar with the mask that may save their life.

The idea for the course was initiated in November when Gen. Donald G. Cook, Air Education and Training Command commander, instructed each AETC wing commander to ensure more readiness training was accomplished prior to each AEF cycle deployment.

He wanted M-16 training for officers, combat skills and use of deadly force included in the curriculum.

"Upon receiving the new requirement, Harvey (Clark) and I sat down to hash it out and see what was included," said Captain Burghard, who was responsible for identifying the training objectives for the course.

Then, what began as a flow chart on a drawing board became a full-fledged training course in a matter of weeks. The first course concluded on

Dec. 16 and received positive feedback.

"I wish I could have taken this class before my last deployment," said Tech. Sgt. Anthony Fiorillo, 47th Operations Support Squadron chief of standardization and evaluation, and one of the attendees of the course. "These are all of the things I learned when I was at a bare base with the Army," he said. Sergeant Fiorillo contributed ideas from his last deployment to be included in the course.

Because the course is still new, changes are still being made. "We are trying to provide the right tools at the right time," said Captain Burghard.

"The first class was a proof of concept," said Harvey Clark, 47th CES deputy chief of readiness and training facilitator for the course.

"It served as a baseline and we will add on as we go," he said. "By the next course we hope to have airburst simulators and more explosives for added realism."

The next class is scheduled for mid-January. Classes will re-convene weekly after the operational readiness inspection is over and until the next AEF cycle deploys.

## ORI countdown: 2 weeks

**Air Force Members are authorized to carry one conservative cell phone, PDA or pager while in uniform. However, cell phones may not be used while walking in uniform and hands-free headsets are not authorized. Cell phones, PDAs and pagers must be clipped to the waistband or purse or carried in the left hand. Although there are no current dress and personal appearance policies that govern talking on a brick while walking, common sense and safety precautions should prevail.**

**Appropriate customs and courtesies should be rendered. There is no Texas state law or Laughlin policy that makes driving while talking on a cell phone or brick against the law. Inspectors can and will write you up for uniform violations if observed during the ORI. If you must use a cell phone while in uniform, follow the rules-- sit down or stand still.**





Laughlin tax center to open for 2004, volunteers trained to assist

By Daureen Hickok  
47th Flying Training Wing  
legal office

The 2004 tax season is here, and the Laughlin Tax Center opens Feb. 1 to assist in preparing and filing basic tax returns and providing legal assistance if needed.

In addition to the Tax Center staff, there are 24 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) representatives assigned to help squadrons throughout the base. These reps completed an IRS-conducted training and will be available to assist personnel in their squadrons.

The Laughlin Tax Center is available to help active-duty and retired military members and eligible dependents as well as civil service employees. This year, the center is open to government-service, wage-grade and non-appropriated-funds employees.

The Laughlin Tax Center is limited to individual income tax assistance; advice or assistance to anyone owning a private business or a partnership is not available.

VITA representatives will provide assistance with income tax preparation to determine tax liability or refund and can electronically file returns. By filing electronically individuals may receive refunds more quickly than if filed by mail, and they may also arrange to have any tax owed transferred directly from a bank account to the IRS.

Individuals will be best served by bringing all paperwork and information they have that may pertain to their federal income tax return, to include: social security cards for spouses and dependants, along with their dates of birth; all W-2s; Form 1099s, interest and dividend information; day-care provider information, including amounts and tax ID numbers; form 1098s,

mortgage interest statements; and last year's federal tax return, including worksheets.

Those wishing to do their own taxes can find many of the necessary forms in the center, excluding state tax forms. However, the applicable forms and instructions can be downloaded from [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

Individuals are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity and should schedule appointments and address tax questions to the appropriate squadron representative listed to the right.

The Laughlin Tax Center, located on the second floor of the Wing Headquarters Building, will be open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by appointment only.

To schedule an appointment with a VITA representative, call their extension after Feb. 1.

For more information, log on to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or call Daureen Hickok at 298-4858.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance  
Representatives by squadron/agency

Squadron	Name	Phone
47th FTW Staff Agencies	Daureen Hickok	298-4858
47th FTW/MX	Arla Brewton	298-5723
47th FTW/MXOO	Gerald Costa Jr.	298-4643
47th FTW/MXMD	Staff Sgt. Richard Harbert	298-5714
47th FTW/MXD	Capri Hughes	298-5381
47th Comptroller Squadron	Airman 1st Class Crystal Flick	298-4561
47th Civil Engineer Squadron	Mr. Robert Estrada	298-4923
47th Communications Squadron	Airman 1st Class Corey Martin	298-4965
47th CS	Airman 1st Class Sean Mallery	298-5428
47th CS	Mr. Mario Meza	298-4618
47th CS	Ms. Leticia Garcia	298-5647
47th Medical Group	Capt. Kiristin Young	298-6381
47th MDG	Airman 1st Class Natalia Chia	298-6422
47th Mission Support Group	Mr. Richard Urban	298-5570
47th Mission Support Squadron	Staff Sgt. Angela Putnam	298-4820
47th MSS	2nd Lt. Mysza Grandell	298-5413
47th Security Forces Squardon	Tech. Sgt. Gerino Mirabal	298-4566
47th Operations Support Squadron	1st Lt. Cher Jaskowski	298-5473
47th OSS	Airman 1st Class Abigail Rodriquez	298-5850
84th Flying Training Squadron	Capt. Darci Hutchins	298-4754
84th FTS	Capt. Gabriel Repucci	298-4783
86th FTS	1st Lt. Jeremy Bergin	298-5170
86th FTS	1st Lt. Garret Bilbo	298-5170
86th FTS	1st Lt. Jonathon Waller	298-4243
87th FTS	Capt. Ryan Rensberger	298-4935

DFAS pushes printable W-2s through myPay online

The beginning of the New Year means only one thing in the tax world, tax statements (W-2, 1099R). The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has compiled a schedule of dates when service members, military retirees and annuitants, and defense civilian employees can access their 2004 tax statements through myPay and when they should receive hardcopy delivery by mail if they don't have a PIN.

Military members, retirees/annuitants and DFAS civilian employees will once again be able to view, save and print tax statements from myPay (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>). The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has approved this version for filing with your personal tax returns.

DFAS delivers personal pay information and provides the ability to process pay-related transactions timely, safely

and securely to all its members through myPay.

The Web-based system eliminates the risks associated with postal delivery by allowing members to access electronic tax statements and other financial information online. MyPay matches existing industry standards for the highest level of encryption and security. This prevents customer information from being accessed by others on the Internet.

Tax statements already available on myPay are: --Retired Annual statements --Retired 1099Rs --Annuitant Annual statements --Annuitant 1099Rs --Air Force, Army and Navy Reserve W2s --Civilian W2s.

Marine Corps Active and Reserve W2s will be avail-

able on myPay Monday, and Air Force, Army and Navy Active W2s will be available January 14.

Tax statements already mailed in hardcopy include: --Retired Annual statements --Retired 1099Rs --Annuitant Annual statements --Annuitant 1099Rs --Air Force, Army and Navy Reserve W2s.

Civilian W2s will be mailed Monday through Jan. 14.

Marine Corps Active and Reserve W2s will be mailed Jan. 18, and Air Force, Army and Navy Active W2s will be mailed Jan. 18 to 24.

The following statements are available by mail only: --Special Compensation for Severely Disabled 1099Rs (mailed Dec. 17, 2004) --VSI/SSB W2s (mailed

Tuesday and Wednesday) --Travel W2s (will be mailed Monday and Tuesday) --Savings Deposit 1099INTs (will be mailed Monday and Tuesday).

"During the months of January, February and March 2004, an average of 1.4 million myPay users viewed their tax statements each month, and we continue to encourage users to view and print their statements online," said Jim Pitt, director of Electronic Commerce, DFAS Military and Civilian Pay Services. "Earlier access to W-2s and other tax statements is another way myPay gives users control of their pay information."

Call Laughlin's Finance customer service at 298-5215 with issues or concerns.

(Courtesy AETC News Service)

## 19th AF commander visits base, talks with XLers

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill  
Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Edward Ellis, 19th Air Force commander, visited Laughlin Dec. 16-17 as the featured graduation speaker for Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 05-03.

During his two-day visit, the commander also took an opportunity to talk with XLers and tour base facilities, which included the fire station, fitness center, security forces and the engine regional repair center.

As the general ate breakfast with a group of enlisted members on the second day of his visit here, he offered insight on serving in the Air Force and fielded some of their questions and concerns.

"You are the biggest difference," he told the group as he compared the U.S. military to that of other countries.

"Other countries can't fathom the responsibilities we give NCOs," he said. "Our NCOs have more responsibility than majors and lieutenant colonels in their militaries."

Adding another comparison, the

general said the United States invests its money for the training and skills military members receive.

"Just as someone trained and mentored you, you should do the same for those (coming up behind you)," he stressed to the Airmen. "Walk the walk, talk the talk. Find those people who have that look in their eyes, and tell them what you think is important. (That) will continue to be what makes the difference."

As General Ellis spoke to graduates of SUPT Class 05-03, he talked about the major changes in the Air Force over the past decades, such as the aircraft that pilots fly and amount of computers everyone has access to. However, he said one thing that has not changed and won't change 20 years from now is "we still need great people to do the things we do in the U.S. Air Force."

He also reminded the graduates, as they become full-fledged flying members of the most feared and respected Air Force in the world, to be a good person and a good officer.

"You still have to be a good hu-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

**Maj. Gen. Edward Ellis (right), 19th Air Force commander, talks with Laughlin members during an enlisted breakfast Dec. 17.**

man being," he said, "because you will be a part of a very big team."

The general challenged the graduates not to stray from what they have learned about safely flying an aircraft, and to be a safety net. He also encouraged them to strive for excellence. "Perceive excellence in your personal life just as you do in your professional life," he said.

As commander of 19th Air Force,

General Ellis is responsible for the day-to-day training of about 2,000 student pilots. The students range from entry-level flying training through advanced combat crew training to become fully-qualified aircrew members for warfighting commands.

The 19th Air Force has more than 31,000 assigned personnel and 1,800 aircraft in 25 units throughout the United States.

## Servicemembers with unique jobs sought for television documentary

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** — Do you or someone you know have an intriguing job that many people would never guess exists in the military?

If so, this may be your golden opportunity to shine in a made-for-TV documentary to be shot this summer.

Officials in the Defense Department's joint advertising, market research and studies office are on the lookout for servicemembers with unique jobs to be featured in a documentary that highlights the vast array of experiences and training the military offers.

Servicemembers willing to donate their time and stories have until Jan. 15 to nominate themselves or someone they know for the project through an online questionnaire at [http://www.jamrs.org/programs/documentary\\_casting\\_call.php](http://www.jamrs.org/programs/documentary_casting_call.php).

Candidates will be selected in late January, and

See 'Documentary,' page 7



Photo by Jose Mendoza

### New commander in town...

**Lt. Col. Peter Bahm receives the guidon from Col. Teresa Daniell, 47th Mission Support Group commander, Tuesday at Club XL to become the new 47th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. Colonel Bahm was previously assigned at Langley Air Force Base, Va., where he served at Headquarters Air Combat Command Civil Engineering Directorate.**

Documentary,  
from page 6

editing and production will take place this summer.

Besides highlighting jobs the public may not necessarily associate with the military, the documentary will illustrate how servicemembers found their way to their unique jobs.

The audience will include parents, educators and other adults who help young people make decisions about their careers and futures.

Maj. Rene Stockwell, the office’s chief, said the goal of the documentary is to highlight the diverse opportunities the military offers to its members — particularly those beyond the well-known jobs held by fighter pilots, paratroopers and computer experts.

“The military offers 4,100 different jobs, and this documentary will cover just a tiny fraction of them,” she said. “But we hope it will help whet people’s (appetite) so they will want to learn more about the military.”

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this newspaper



Laughlin  
Salutes

SUPT Class 05-03  
awards

Daedalian award:  
2nd Lt. Ruston Traynham

Academic award, airlift/  
tanker track:  
2nd Lt. Mark Enriques

Academic award, fighter/  
bomber track:  
Capt. Ronald Greer

Flying training award,

fighter/bomber track:  
2nd Lt. Ruston Traynham

Flying training award, air-  
lift/tanker track:  
2nd Lt. Jessica Hahnenkratt

Airlift/tanker Distin-  
guished Graduate:  
2nd Lt. Jessica Hahnenkratt

Fighter/bomber Distin-  
guished Graduate:  
2nd Lt. Ruston Traynham

Outstanding Officer of  
Class 04-09:  
Capt. Ronald Greer

AETC Commander’s  
Trophy, airlift/tanker  
track:  
2nd Lt. Jessica Hahnenkratt

AETC Commander’s  
Trophy, fighter/bomber  
track:  
2nd Lt. Ruston Traynham

Outstanding 2nd Lieuten-  
ant Award:  
2nd Lt. Mark Enriques

Citizenship award:  
2nd Lt. Marika Perry

Homeland Heroes





# Laughlin EEO specialist wins Air Force award

30-year XLER earns honor for efforts on base, within local community

**By Staff Sgt. Kristin Mack**  
*Special to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs*

On Dec. 14, Joni Jordan received a call she least expected.

After picking up the phone to hear the familiar voice of her former superior, she was in for quite a shock when she learned that she had been selected to receive the 2004 Air Force Distinguished Equal Employment Opportunity Award.

The award is under the special emphasis programs in the black employment category.

"I never imagined in my wildest dreams that I would win at Air Force level," said Joni M. Jordan, 47th Mission Support Group human resources specialist. "I was honored to win at command level out of 14 AETC bases. That was quite an honor!"

As a result of more than 30 years



**Joni Jordan**

of dedicated service to Laughlin and the surrounding community, this was the third award she has received for recognition of her outstanding efforts during her tenure. She took home The Best in AETC award under the same category in 1997 and 2003.

In her collateral duty as the black employment manager, Ms. Jordan has been continuously involved in several activities to increase the efforts for equal employment opportunity at Laughlin. She recently set and ex-

ceeded recruitment goals, while continuing to assist the management staff with program-related issues.

Outside of her employment scope at Laughlin, she organized and served for 27 years as the chair and co-chair of the Black Heritage Committee on base.

She applied her versatile talents to plan and execute activities for special observances like the Martin Luther King Day celebration and Black History month.

Then, last year, she decided to give her resignation to the Black Heritage Committee. "As Popeye says, I stood all I (could) stand and couldn't stand anymore," said Ms. Jordan.

She continues to remain active in community associations and with her heritage preservation. Ms. Jordan is involved in her native Seminole Negro Indian Scouts community by currently serving as a member of their cemetery organization.

Although it is difficult to list her many undertakings, she attributes her greatest accomplishment to raising her four children.

"Raising children is one of the

most difficult tasks that you will ever face in life," said Ms. Jordan. "There are no blueprints."

She completed the task successfully on her own as a single parent. Except for one child, who unfortunately succumbed to the devastating effects of brain cancer during his fourth year of college. All of her other children have gone on to become working professionals.

She attributes the success of her biggest accomplishment with the mindset that she had to be a model for her children.

"I knew I had to set an example for my children because I was all that stood between them and the world," said Ms. Jordan. "That is what I proceeded to do and that is what brought me to this moment."

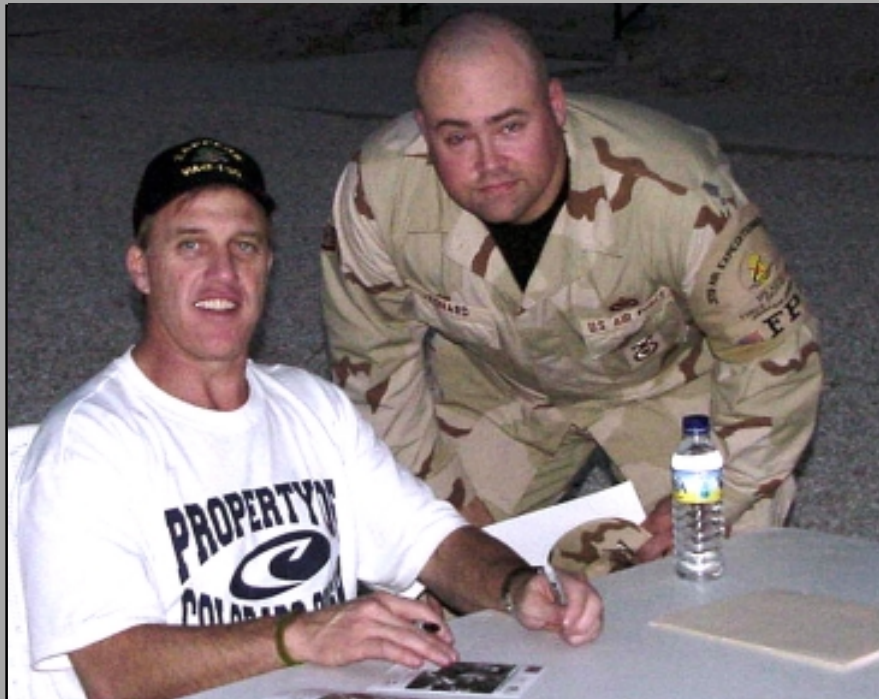
She is also grateful for Dora Alcala, the mayor of Del Rio, and former 47th MSG chief personnel officer.

"I always mention Dora in all of my programs," Ms. Jordan said. "I learned an awful lot from Dora and tell everyone she is my mentor- she shaped my career."



## The stars come out...

Above, Senior Airman Jennifer Pegg, of the 47th Comptroller Squadron, stands with Gen. Richard Meyers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and at right, Staff Sgt Gregory Leonard, a 47th Security Forces Squadron member, poses with National



*Courtesy photos*

Football League legend John Elway, during recent visits at their deployed locations in Southwest Asia. General Meyers and Elway were recently part of United Service Organizations and NFL tours during the holidays that featured military, sports and Hollywood icons.



The *XLer*

Senior Airman Leremy Jasenec  
47th Communications Squadron



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

**Hometown:**  
Moundsville, W. V.  
**Family:** Single  
**Time at Laughlin:**  
one year, 11 months  
**Time in service:**  
two years, five months  
**Greatest accomplishment:**  
My anime collection  
**Bad habit:** Anime (Japa-  
nese cartoon art) and  
working on my car  
**Favorite movies:** None in  
particular just as long as  
there is a good car chase in it.  
**If you could spend one  
hour with any person, who  
would it be and why?**  
Shuichi Shigeno (anime  
artist), because I really en-  
joyed his Initial D series.

Chapel  
information



Catholic

- Monday - Friday* ● Mass, 12:05 p.m.  
*Saturday* ● Mass, 5 p.m., Reconciliation,  
4:15 p.m. or by appointment  
*Sunday* ● Mass, 9:30 a.m., Religious  
Education, 11 a.m.  
*Thursday* ● Choir: 6 p.m., Rite of Christian  
Initiation, 7:30 p.m.

Protestant

- Wednesday* ● Choir, 7 p.m.; Protestant  
Women of the Chapel Ladies'  
Bible Study, 9 a.m.  
*Sunday* ● General worship, 11 a.m.,  
Contemporary worship, 9 a.m. in  
the base theater

Chaplain Staff

- Wing chaplain:* Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim,  
Roman Catholic  
*Senior Protestant:* Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast,  
Presbyterian Church, USA  
*Protestant:* Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack,  
Independent Christian Church  
*Protestant:* Chap. (Capt.) Kenneth Fisher,  
Evangelical Church Alliance

For more information on other denominations, chapel events or services, call 298-5111. For information on special events, see the Community Calendar on page 12.

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[www.af.mil/news](http://www.af.mil/news)

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Cinema

1x2  
Animal  
House

2x2  
The  
Veranda

2x3  
Rose Rodriguez

Force Fitness

## Med Group improves access to records with computerized system

*Compiled by 47th Medical Support Squadron staff*

Beginning Jan. 10, the 47th Medical Group will install, train on, and operate the Composite Health Care System II.

This computer system updates the current CHCS and moves the medical group closer to fully using an electronic health record.

CHCS II facilitates the delivery of timely and appropriate medical and dental care by providing a comprehensive, legible and secure medical record that is standardized across all the services.

Further, the record will be available for all encounters in the military health system when the system is fully deployed.

Full deployment for Air Force military treatment facilities is expected to be complete by the end of 2005.

The medical group will train one-half of its staff each week in classroom settings.

Over the course of the month following classroom education, advisors will be working in the clinic with our providers to continue the training in the clinical setting.

During the training and implementation cycle, patient appointments will be limited so that providers and patients gain experience with the requirements levied by CHCS II.

Some patients may be referred to providers in the local area in order to ensure their acute healthcare needs are met.

The medical group is expected to return to normal operating tempo the first week of March.

"We have been waiting for the opportunity to use CHCS II here at Laughlin," said Lt. Col. Susan Baker, the Facility Project Officer.

"For the sites already active, both providers and patients have seen the results of the improved medical record. Within the next year, all of the CONUS-based military treatment facilities will be active, so patients will enjoy continuity of care and treatment unavailable in the past," she said.

CHCS II will eventually link all care provided in any military treatment facility worldwide into one data storage location and provide a length of service medical history that is at the forefront of medical care worldwide.



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristin Mack*

### The winner is...

(Right) Staff Sgt. Sean Flansbaum, 47th Mission Support Group, is presented a Madden 2005 football video game by Dennis Carroll, 47th Services Squadron Marketing Division, for winning the base 2004 Football Frenzy. Sergeant Flansbaum, the winner of the first half of the season, faced off against Mark Martinez, also of the 47th MSG, to win the overall base championship by picking 11 of 16 games correctly.

## Sportslines

### Equipment classes

The fitness center holds exercise equipment training classes every Tuesday and Thursday at 1 p.m.

The training is offered on exercise and cardio equip-

ment to individuals who would like to learn the basics of the equipment.

To sign up for a class or for details, contact the fitness center staff at 298-5251.

### Squadron fitness

Squadron fitness leaders are reminded sporting events

such as volleyball, softball, soccer, dodgeball, basketball, etc. do not count for unit physical training per Air Force Instruction.

For details on unit fitness requirements, physical training leaders can call Bill Goins at 298-6464 or read AFI 10-248.

Don't forget to wipe down fitness center equipment after you are finished using it.

## XL Fitness Center hours

298-5251

Monday - Thursday:  
5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Friday:  
5 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Saturday - Sunday:  
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



## Del Rio sets MLK march

Del Rio will have its first-ever Martin Luther King Jr. March, beginning at 10 a.m. Jan. 17 at Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church, 920 North Main St.

The march will end at the Val Verde County court house grounds, where speakers, entertainment, food and drinks are planned.

Individuals are welcome to make suggestions that will enhance this event.

For more information and to participate, call Joni Jordan at 298-5914.

### Interested in the Air Force?

*Call Del Rio's Air Force recruiter at 774-0911.*



**The Air Force  
rewards  
good ideas with  
money.  
Check out the  
IDEA  
Program data  
system at  
[https://ideas.  
randolph.af.mil](https://ideas.randolph.af.mil)  
or call Tech. Sgt.  
Thomas Mayo at  
298-4355.**